NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

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Quackery Exhibit at NLM

Medical quackery, with its many bizarre machines and devices of "pseudo-medicine," and its extravagant patent medicine claims on labels, posters, and almanacs, is featured in the new lobby exhibit at the National Library of Medicine.

Entitled "Nostrums and Machines of Medical Quackery," the exhibit includes such devices as the Micro-Dynameter, a machine whose inventor claimed it was able to diagnose scores of major diseases by measuring electric currents as you grip the metal cylinders, and the Violetta, essentially an ignition coil system, which its makers claimed has "successfully treated 86 ailments" ranging from abscess, through birth marks and heart disease to writer's cramp.

"The Leaves of the Forest were for the Healing of the Nation"

KA-TON-KA

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Health is Perishable as well as Attainable.

KA-TON-KA CURES OR PAYS BACK THE MONEY.

Pure Air, Pure Water, Pure Food, Pure Skin

STOMACH, LIVER, KIDNEYS AND BLOOD

Ka-ton-Ka is Guaranteed & Secured by Bond

A BANK DRAFT WITH EVERY BOTTLE I SELL

Col. T. A. Edwards

The first U.S. patent dealing with therapeutic matters was granted to Elisha Perkins in 1796 for his metallic tractors -- a pair of small metal rods purported to effect a cure by being drawn across the body. Another contrivance on display is the Oscilloclast, touted as the last word in the diagnosis and treatment of hundreds of diseases. This machine was the brain-child of Dr. Albert Abrams of San Francisco. Upon his death in 1924, the American Medical Association in its Journal dubbed Abrams "the Dean of all 20th Century Charlatans."

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
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NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

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8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20014

Post-Graduate Library Associate Training Program

Applications for NLM's Post-Graduate Library Associate Training Program in Biomedical Communications are now being accepted from students who will have graduated from an accredited school of library or information science by August 1970. The program provides for one year of intensive training and education; an opportunity to attend local university courses; and experience with programs in audiovisual techniques, biomedical communications, specialized information services, grants and contracts in support of national biomedical communications, and other aspects of modern medical librarianship.

Applicants must be citizens of the United States and qualify under the Federal Civil Service regulations for appointment as a Librarian. Candidates are required to have a Master's degree in Library Science and reading competence in a modern foreign language. An under-graduate degree in science is preferred but is not a requirement. Appointments are generally made at the entering salary of GS-9, $9300.

The deadline for filing applications is March 1, 1970.

Requests for application materials and further information should be directed to the Training Officer, National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Md. 20014.

Training in Reference Services

NLM's Reference Services Division has inaugurated a formal training program in reference services for librarians. The course, limited at present to NLM employees, covers all phases of reference work, although it can be modified to the needs of the trainee. The standard topics included are medical bibliography, reference tools, indirect reference service, non-conventional sources for data, science information centers, and current awareness and alerting tools. The total class time for the course has varied to date from 36 to 100 hours. The training officer is Mrs. Muriel Dury of the Reference Section.

The program consists of lectures, practical work, and review, with revision and consultation on an individual basis. The lecture schedule follows the plan of a reference services manual developed especially for the course.

For training purposes, reference requests are initially handled as if an exhaustive search were required. This acquaints the trainee with the scope of available material, methods for developing background information, and search strategy. Qualitative selection of a limited number of references is then made to provide an end product which will contain the specific information sought by the requestor. The entire procedure is then reviewed by the class so that everyone may benefit from the solution of each problem.

NLM Director's Honor Award

Ralph A. Simmons (photo, right), MEDLARS II Project Officer, has received the first National Library of Medicine Director's Honor Award from Dr. Martin M. Cummings, NLM Director. As the first recipient of the new annual award, he heads the list of a developing honor roll at NLM. Stating that Mr. Simmons' outstanding contribution to the mission of NLM during 1969 was recognized by the entire staff of the Library, Dr. Cummings said that the award was made in specific recognition of his superior handling of the extremely difficult contractual arrangments pertaining to the development of MEDLARS II (*News*, August 1969). MEDLARS II (Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System II) is an advanced information retrieval system which will replace MEDLARS I by fiscal year 1971; the second-generation MEDLARS will be a much-expanded system allowing for faster and more efficient access to biomedical literature files.

Price Announced for CIM

The Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, is now accepting orders for the 1969 edition of *Cumulated Index Medicus*, Volume 10 (*News*, December 1969). The price for the eight-volume set, containing citations to approximately 224,000 journal articles, is $90.50 domestic, $100.00 foreign. The order number is HE 20.3612/3:V.10. Orders should be placed immediately, even though the publication date is still several months away. The *1968 CIM* (Volume 9) is currently available for $72.25. ($80.55 foreign.)

The instructions below, most of which apply to orders for all NLM publications offered for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, should be followed to assure maximum speed in handling:

1. Orders should be sent directly to: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. (Do not send orders to the National Library of Medicine.)

2. Remittance is required before orders are filled. Purchasers in countries for which an additional sum is required for mailing should send remittance in the form of international money order or draft on an American bank. Orders not requiring additional payment for foreign mailing, should include remittance with the order in the form of check, money order, or Superintendent of Documents Coupons. In all cases, checks should be made payable to the Superintendent of Documents.

3. To prevent confusion with subscriptions for the monthly *Index Medicus*, please avoid use of the term "subscription" on your order, and clearly indicate the exact year and volume of *Cumulated Index Medicus* you wish to order.

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The nostrum, defined in the dictionary as "a medicine of secret composition, recommended by its preparer but usually lacking general repute," is represented in the NLM exhibit by a wide range of preparations, from Kickapoo Indian Medicine to Pulmonic Syrup, and by many vivid posters, trade cards, and billboards which promised miraculous cures to the sick and disabled.

The instruments and machines of many sizes and shapes were borrowed from a number of sources including the Smithsonian Institution, California Department of Public Health, American Medical Association, and the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology Museum.

The exhibit, open to the public 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., will be on display until April 24, 1970.

(CIM, from Page 3)

4. All inquiries regarding orders should be sent to the Customer Service Section, Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Please allow several months from the planned publication date (early April for *1969 CIM)* for delivery before inquiring about your order. If you do write regarding failure to receive the publication, be sure to include as much information regarding the order as possible (exact title of publication requested, date requested, method and amount of payment, etc.), and include a copy of your order.

New Veterinary Medicine Fact Sheet

A new NLM Veterinary Medicine Fact Sheet has been published and is available to those interested in this field. The Library's collection now includes about 2,500 volumes concerned with veterinary medicine. NLM also receives nearly 250 veterinary medical journals of a total of approximately 350 published throughout the world. Many publications in veterinary medicine are available on the open shelves in the NLM Reading Room. Further information on the Library's programs and services as they relate to veterinary medicine may be obtained from: Fritz P. Gluckstein, D.V.M., Coordinator for Veterinary Affairs, National Library of Medicine.

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